മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എ. രാഘവൻ: കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടുമാസമായിട്ട് ആ പണി അവിടെ നടത്തി ട്ടില്ലെന്ന ഗവമെണ്ടിനറിയാമൊ?

റാവുസാഹിബ് സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: ഫ ഫ ു ഫ അവസാനിക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പ് തീർത്തു കൊള്ളണമെന്നാണ് ഓർഡർ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു?

COCHIN RESTAURANTS

444. Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to answer.—

(*a*) was it not for the popularisation of dry grains that the Cochin Restaurants were first started;

(*b*) what is the purpose that they serve now;

(*c*) is it not a problem for Government now to supply dry grains to the Restaurants even to meet the minimum demand;

(*d*) what is the amount annually spent on the Cochin Restaurants in the form of subsidy and other grants, etc.;

(*e*) do the Government know that many proprietors and Managers of Cochin Restaurants have become rich men out of the enormous profits from the restaurants?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) The Cochin Restaurants were expected to serve as places where cheap and wholesome food would be obtainable by the public at reasonable prices. The use of dry grasns and cereals other than rice in the preparation of dishes is a special feature of these institutions.

(*b*) They serve the above purposes now. They are also helping to keep prices down and catering to a large section of the labour population.

(*c*) Government have imported sufficient quantities of wheat and pulses and they are being supplied to the Cochin Restaurants according to requirments.

(*d*) Rs. 10,926—0—0 per annum.

(*e*) No. If some proprietors have made a decent income, it is not because of high profits out of transactions but because of the large volume of sales.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Now what is the purpose served by the other coffee hotels and restaurants?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* They cater to the requirements of the Public.

Mr. President: That is not a matter with which the Government are concerned.

Mr. P. A. Mohammed Ashroff *(Cranganur):* Are dry grains now available?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Yes; wheat and pulses.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Are there any coffee hotels or restaurants now where rice dishes are served?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* In all hotels dry grains are used.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* So, you say that all other restaurants than Cochin Restaurants do not serve rice dishes.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* No rice is served.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Is it not a fact that all the restaurants now serve the same purpose?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Yes, to the extent that they all feed the people.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Why, all prepare only dishes out of dry grains?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* There is also another purpose which is equally important—to keep down prices.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* How is it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* We have absolute control over Cochin Restaurants and we insist that prices should be kept to the minimum. In the case of other hotels also it can be done, but not so effectively. Here, in the case of Cochin Restaurants, at least the subsidies can be taken away and therefore they are more afraid.

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In other cases, we will have to prosecute them and it is rather difficult to get through the prosecution successfully. We may have to prove the number of cups of coffee sold at particular rates or whether the size of Dossas and Idalies served is proper.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Besides these small subsidies, do the Government know that they are making enormous amount by selling surplus quantity of sugar given them?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* For one thing Government do not know that they are selling sugar in the black-market. For another thing, that is a charge that can be brought against other restaurants also. Because sugar is supplied to other restaurants also and they can as well sell it in the black-market. If we are to take steps, I am afraid there will be no limit to such charges.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Is it the Government's view that all restaurants other than the Cochin Restaurants are selling things at unreasonable prices?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* I cannot say that they are selling at unreasonable prices. They may or may not. But I know personally before these restaurants were started there was a tendency for prices to shoot up. I say, I know personally, because the clerks in the Secretariat have complained to me that time that the prices are raised.....

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* That situation has changed now.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Goverment):* Yes, that situation was changed after these restaurants were started.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Is it not possible to control prices in the Cochin Restaurants without giving them subsidies?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* It is possible to do that in other places also, but not so easily. Here it is possible to cut down the subsidies. There we will have to go through courts. That is the difficulty.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. എ. മുഹമ്മദ് അഷ്റഫ്: ഏതെങ്കിലും റെസ്റ്റോറൻറുകൾക്കുള്ള സബ്സിഡി ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് വല്ലപ്പോഴും കാൻസൽ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* In several cases it has been stopped.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. എ. മുഹമ്മദ് അഷ്റഫ്: കൊച്ചിൻ റെസ്റ്റോറൻറുകൾക്ക് കൊടുക്കുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ ബ്ലാക്ക്മാർക്കറ്റിൽ വിലുനടത്തുന്നതായി വല്ല ആക്ഷേപവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ? Attempts of black-marketing.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Unless it is proved or until it is proved.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the quality of the dishes served by the Cochin Restaurants is going progressively downwards. (*Laughter*)

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Is it the subsidy that enables Cochin Restaurants to give dishes and things in the proper condition, at present?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* This subsidy gives Government more control over such institutions.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Are there not adequate rules to enable Government to exercise proper control without giving subsidy?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* I already answered that. It is one thing to get a prosecution through a court of law and another thing to cut down the subsidy and make them do things properly. By giving subsidy, we can keep prices to a level, because, if in a particular shop which we subsidise things are available cheap naturally others will have to cut down their prices also to attract customers.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, whether Government has enquired into the complaint that the quality of dishes served by the Cochin Restaurants is going down?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Government are not aware of it.

Mr. C. S. Panicker *(Adur):* Will Government consider the necessity of subsidising all coffee-houses so that they can have control over them (*Laughter*)

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* There is no need for it. When once prices in one restaurant are controlled, others will follow suit. The people will go only to places where they get things cheap.

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Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* May I know what is the maximum subsidy, given to a Cochin Restaurants?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, *(Chief Secretary to Government):* I do not remember the maximum in a single case, but the total per month, all restaurants put together is Rs. 910.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* In view of very strong representations made in this House during the discussion on the miscellaneous demand, will the Government be pleased to stop all these subsidies and grants immediately?

Rama Varmha Tampura, M.B.E.: *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Government are considering that question.

Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh *(Mattancheri):* Favourably? *(Laughter).*

Mr. P. A. Muhammed Ashrof *(Cranganur):* May I know whether these restaurants are given free building and furniture?

Rama Varmha Tampuran M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Yes. That is in the nature of subsidy; rent of the building.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: സബ്സിഡി കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് കൺട്രോൾചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നത് എന്നുപറയുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് പഞ്ചസാര അധികം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടോ?

രാമവർമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: പഞ്ചസാര അധികം കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* About ten and a half lakhs of people are served by these restaurants. For preparing cups of coffee for them 94 tons of sugar are required and we are issuing sugar more or less on that basis.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: ഈ റെസ്റ്റാറന്റുകൾകൊണ്ട് എത്ര ആളുകൾക്ക് ചായ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്?

രാമവർമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ: പത്തരലക്ഷം.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ടി. ജേക്കബ്ബ്: ബാക്കിയുള്ള നലരലക്ഷം ആളുകൾക്ക് ഈ റെസ്റ്റോറന്റുകൾ കൂടാതെ എത്ര ചായക്കടകൾ ഉണ്ടാകും? I want a reply to my question.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* A man can drink more than one cup of coffee. There is no restriction about that.

Mr. P. T. Jacob *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri):* That is not the question. The question is you have a very limited number of Government controlled restaurants while in Cochin State there are thousands of restaurants other than controlled restaurants. You presume that 10½ lakhs of people are catered to by these Cochin Restaurants. I ask you, then, whom do these thousands of other restaurants cater. Do they cater only four lakhs? *(Laughter)*

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* People can drink coffee from Cochin Restaurants as well as other restaurants. Some people may drink here and it is not stated that the same number cannot drink there.

Mr. P. K. Paul *(Chalakkudi):* Do the Government consider the imperative need to abolish all these restaurants since they grow rather at the expense of similar institutions, and distribute this sugar in an even manner to all.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* That is not very likely to happen. But regarding the question of stopping the subsidy it is being very seriously considered:

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* May I know, Sir, whether Government will make an enquiry as to whether these Cochin Restaurants are at present selling the available sugar to the other coffee clubs in the black-market?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* That question has been answered several times. It is not in the case of one institution alone that charge can be brougt.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Are the Cochin Restaurents selling sugar in black-market at present?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* If the Government think that they are doing it, they would certainly have taken action against them. That is obvious.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry to find out whether the allegations are true?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* There is no necessity to make a separate enquiry in the matter.

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